

WARHORSE NEVER FORGETS

No Matter How Long Equines May Live They Always Answer the Calls of the Cornet.

These old horses never forget the calls, no matter how long it has been since they last heard them.

One day some years ago, when I was passing an open lot in the outskirts of Chicago, I found a boy trying to play an old cornet, says a writer in Forest and Stream. While the boy and I were at work on the cornet, an old negro ash hauler came along driving an animal that had once been a good horse, but was now only a collection of skin and bones. The horse stopped when he heard us and stuck up his ears. I came to the conclusion that he had once been a cavalry horse and asked the old negro where he had got him. "From a farmer," he said. I could not find a "U. S." on the horse; he had probably been discharged to long ago that his brand had been worn off. But taking the cornet I sounded the stable call, and the horse began to dance.

"Hold fast to your lines, now, uncle," I warned the old negro. "I am going to make the old horse do some of the fastest running he has ever done since he left the cavalry." Then, beginning with the call for the gallop, I next sounded the charge, and the old plug went plunging up the road at his fastest gait, dragging his wagon after him. I gave him the recall next, and he came down to a walk, much to the relief of the old negro. He said that this was the first time he had ever been able to get him to go faster than a slow walk before. "You don't feed him well enough to get him to do much running," I told him. "That horse when he did have to run got his 12 pounds of corn and all the hay he could eat every day."

POST ROUTE ON A RIVER.

Boats in the Service on the Thames Receive Mail from the End of a Boat Hook.

It is probable that London has the distinction of being the only port where the ships lying at anchor are privileged to have their letters delivered to them by river postmen, it being customary at other ports for sailors to apply personally for their letters unless the ship is in dock. The Thames is divided into two postal districts, each under the control of a river postman, who delivers letters and parcels every morning in a craft which resembles a fishing boat more than anything else. Of these districts the first extends from the custom house to Limehouse and the second from Limehouse to Blackwall. The river postmen start on their rounds punctually at eight o'clock every morning, and, needless to say, there is only one delivery a day. The mail bag may include as many as 500 letters, but this number is largely increased about Christmas time. As he glides from ship to ship, the postman calls out: "Aho, there!" and hands up the letters attached to a boathook to the waiting crew. It only takes from four to five hours to deliver the mail, so that the postman does not waste much time. In foggy weather, however, it takes considerably longer, owing to the difficulties of finding the various ships, and of steering between the large vessels as they lie at anchor.

World's Water Power.

The following list of the world's water-power electricity plants shows the aggregate power so obtained in the respective countries: United States of America, 527,467-horsepower; Canada, 228,225-horsepower; Mexico, 18,470-horsepower; Venezuela, 1,200-horsepower; Brazil, 800-horsepower; Japan, 3,450-horsepower; Switzerland, 133,302-horsepower; France, 161,343-horsepower; Germany, 81,077-horsepower; Austria, 16,000-horsepower; Sweden, 71,000-horsepower; Italy, 210,000-horsepower; India, 7,050-horsepower; South Africa, 2,100-horsepower; Great Britain, 11,906-horsepower; total, 1,483,390-horsepower.—Don Engineer.

Stuffed Her Husband.

The body of M. Markoff, the great Siberian railway contractor, has been stuffed by his widow, fitted with glass eyes, and garbed in dress clothes, and it now inhabits a phibly inlaid cabinet in a corner of Mrs. Markoff's drawing room.

HOLBEIN AND TITIAN.

To the Former Genius the World Was a Tolleme Pilgrimage, to the Other a Pageant.

The genius of Holbein blossomed early, says St. Nicholas. In 1515, when he was 18 years old, he moved from Augsburg, where he was born, to Basel, the center of learning, whose boast was that every house in it contained at least one learned man. In 1520 he was admitted to citizenship at Basel and to membership in the painters' guild, good proof, as he was only 23, of his unusual ability.

But the times were lean ones for the painter. Holbein found himself in need of money, and accordingly set out for London with a letter of introduction to Sir Thomas More, the king's chancellor.

"Master Haunce," as the English called him, arrived in England toward the close of 1526. During this first visit to England he painted portraits of many of the leading men of the day. But two years later, in consequence of an outbreak of the plague, he returned to Basel, only to be driven back to England in 1531 by poverty and the death of his old friends.

In 1537 Holbein came to the notice of Henry VIII, and was established as court painter, a position which he held until his death. This seems to have occurred during another visitation of the plague in 1543; for at this date knowledge of the great artist ceases. When he died or where he was buried is not known.

What a contrast between his life and Titian's! One the favorite, and the other the sport of fortune. For though the greatness of both was recognized by the men of their time, Titian lived a life of sumptuous ease in the beautiful surroundings of Venice, while Holbein, often straitened for money, never wealthy, experienced the rigor of poverty; forced by need and circumstances to become an alien in a strange land, dying unnoticed and unhonored.

The world to Titian was a pageant, to Holbein a scene of toil and pilgrimage.

BIG FAMILIES OF ENGLISH.

North of Britain Is Rooseveltian Paradise as Far as Race Suicide Is Concerned.

The north of England seems to be a fertile soil for large families, for in 1797 we read of a Cumberland man and his wife, accompanied by 30 of their children, all attending the christening of the 31st child; and in earlier years another north countryman, Thomas Greenhill, applied to the then duke of Norfolk, earl marshal, for an augmentation to his coat of arms on the singular ground that he was "the seventh son and 39th child of one father and mother."

In Conway churchyard there was to be seen—it can scarcely be there to-day—a tombstone bearing the following remarkable epitaph: "Here lyeth the body of Nicholas Hocker, of Conway, gentleman, who was the 41st child of his father, William Hocker, by Alice his wife, and the father of 27 children. 1637."

If a man's family be considered as including all his descendants, that of Peter Smith, who flourished in New Jersey in the seventeenth century, is entitled to a high place of honor, for at a recent annual gathering of Peter's progeny no fewer than 7,000 met and dined together under the apple trees in the orchard attached to the ancestral homestead.

In families it is not an unknown thing for one child to be old enough to have a sister or brother young enough to be his or her great-grandchild. Thus the eldest son of Thomas Beatty, of Drumcondra, had passed his 73d birthday when his youngest brother qualified for the cradle. When William Frost, of Galphay, near Ripon, died in 1789, his eldest child was a sturdy boy of 88 summers, and his youngest was barely 16, and the Lady Powerscourt of today is a half century older than her latest brother.

Not Loyal to Her.

Mrs. Newbride—Yes, I'm determined to leave him. He has doubted my word—

Her Mother—But surely you won't leave him simply because he doubted your word?

"It's too hateful of him. He should know I'm always right, even if I'm wrong."—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

MAY PUT BAN ON QUEUE.

Chinese Government Said to Be Considering the Abolishment of Old Style Appendix.

Some time ago it was announced that the members of a Chinese revolutionary reform movement had decided to abandon the custom of wearing the queue, and that hundreds of the Chinese in New York and California colonies were cutting that hirsute appendage. The Chronicle expressed its incredulity of the revolutionary source of the reform at the time the announcement was made on the ground that the cutting of the queue would be a distinguishing mark of the disloyalty to the imperial dynasty of the Chinese who submitted to it, and be an absolute bar to his return to his own country.

According to the local Chinese papers, the inspiration favoring queue cutting comes from an imperial and not from a revolutionary source. These papers represent that a mandate directing the cutting of the queue is being seriously considered by the Chinese government, and its issuance at an early date is anticipated. It is expected that within the next six months the custom of wearing queues will disappear entirely in the local colony.

If the Chinese government is contemplating the issuance of such a reformatory order it has doubtless been influenced in its course largely by the example set by Japan, which, before its adoption of western civilization, was a queue-wearing nation. Whether the wearing of the queue by the Chinese grew out of a condition of servility or possesses a special religious significance, its abolition will mark the abandonment of one of China's oldest and most persistently cherished traditions. But it will be accepted generally as the initial step of the Chinese government toward the modernization of the nation. If the government favors the change there can be no doubt that the people will promptly comply with its edict.

ASPHALT COMES FROM LAKE

Venezuela Bodies of Water Are Source of Chief Supply of Great Commercial Product.

Although the asphalt lakes of Trinidad and Venezuela furnish over 90 per cent of the asphalt used, small deposits are found in the limestone of Val de Trivas, in Switzerland; Seyssel, on the Rhone; Cuba and America, declares a writer in the New York Tribune. The largest South American asphalt lake consists of a dark brownish deposit of a semi-fluid and semi-solid substance surrounded by banks from three to six feet high. In the center of this lake is a continual ejection of hot fluid asphalt, accompanied by large bubbles of gas.

The dark-skinned workmen excavate it in pieces weighing in the neighborhood of 25 pounds, sections 40 feet in area and about four feet deep being worked at one time. As quickly as freed from its surroundings it is placed in large tubs, resting upon small flat topped framecars operated upon a narrow gauge road. The entire surface is constantly moving, thus necessitating a continual relaying of the tracks.

The freshly excavated asphalt is conveyed to the shore, where the tubs are lifted by hydraulic power to an aerial tramway, by which it is conveyed to a large wharf situated on the Guanaco river, about five miles distant from the lake. Here it is weighed and dumped into the vessels which convey it to the foreign lands.

Upon its arrival at a factory it is heated until the water is expelled and the earthy materials cast to the bottom of the large vats, and it is poured through a sieve into barrels, where it solidifies. It is then ready for commerce.

Eclipsed.

Helen—Was your bitterest hour the time you discovered that your fiancé was flirting with some one else?

Elise—No, it was when he discovered that I'd been doing the same thing.—Detroit Free Press.

Did She Mean It?

She—The Swellingtons called on us last week, you know.

He—Yes.

"Don't you think it is about time we should retaliate?"—The Bits.

GREAT PROFIT FROM DOGS

Most Important Branch of Manchurian Trade Is Selling of Canine and Goat Skins.

By far the most important branch of the skin and fur trade of Manchuria consists of the skins of the domesticated animals—the dog and the goat, says Hosi's "Manchuria." Many thousands of these skins are annually exported from Niuchwang and Tientsin and ultimately find their way principally to the United States.

There are thousands of small dog and goat farms scattered over the northern districts of Manchuria and Mongolia where from ten to hundreds of animals are reared yearly. When a girl is married she receives perhaps six dogs as dowry, and it can be easily understood that this comparatively small beginning may be the foundation of a large fortune, seeing that the reproduction of ten per annum would in a few years give an enormous total. A dog matures in from six to eight months, and the fur is at its best during the winter; so that the animal must be destroyed before the thaw sets in. Nature has provided a magnificent protection to withstand the cold of these northern latitudes, where the thermometer (Fahrenheit) goes down to 25 degrees below zero—i. e., 57 degrees of frost—and it is doubtful if dog skins in any other part of the world are to be compared with those that come from Manchuria or Mongolia, either in size, length of hair or quality. The question of food for so many animals naturally presents itself. If they had to be kept entirely by their masters the industry would not be a paying one. The coarsest grain—millet that is not good enough for the horses—mixed with ordure and rubbish of the farm is always ready for them when by foraging outside they are unable to satisfy the pangs of hunger.

PARIS FOOD PRICES HIGH.

Cost of Provisions in the French Capital Greater Than Here, Says a Writer.

Fish and poultry are sold by the piece, most fruit by the pound, also nearly all vegetables like peas, beans, potatoes and spinach, but salads, cauliflowers and cabbages are sold by the head, says Jeanne Constantine, in Good Housekeeping.

Many varieties of food are more expensive in France than in America. Meat is precisely double the price, poultry a third more, cooking butter varies from 36 to 40 cents a pound in American money, strictly fresh eggs 60 cents a dozen, coffee 60 cents a pound. But vegetables and fruits in season are inexpensive.

Ice is a great luxury; you can buy it at the cremerie, a store dealing in milk, butter and cheese; it costs three cents a pound. The cook goes down and brings up this luxurious commodity in a salad bowl. You could not get an ice-man to bring ice to you; besides an ice box is an unknown comfort in the average French household.

BIRDS SUFFER IN WINTER.

Scattering of Bread Crumbs to Feathery Tribe Is Always Welcomed by Them.

When the ground is covered with snow there are birds suffering for want of food. All the birds hereabouts do not go to a warmer climate when winter comes. Go into the woods nearly any winter afternoon and unless the cold is extreme or the winds very strong birds of many families may be found. These reckless little fellows do well so long as the ground is not white. When a heavy snow comes they are without food and perish in droves because they dared to spend the winter in their summer home.

The next time it snows scatter bread crumbs and bits of meat in your yard. The birds will find it very soon and they will bring others to the place where there is food in time of snow. Sparrows? Yes, there will be many sparrows, but even they must live, and a chattering few of them will add much to a winter landscape as it is seen through the window of a warm room.

The Grateful Mind.

He enjoys much who is thankful for little; a grateful mind is both a great and happy mind.—Seeker.

GIRLS WEAR TROUSERS.

Circassian Maids and Damsels Enjoy Unique Schedule of Men's Apparel—Have Three Colors.

"Ever been to Circassia?" said the sailor.

"No, of course not," the druggist answered.

"Then I'll tell you about the trousers of the Circassian girls. Gimme," said the temperate sailor, "a mock cocktail. I'll tell you about them trousers while you're mixing up the drink."

"In Circassia, Cad, the girls is all beautiful. They have straight noses, clear eyes, white teeth and heavy hair. They are slim, and they wear bright clothes—red shoes, flowin' veils, sashes, trousers. Their trousers is what I am goin' to tell you about."

"Only three colors in trousers is worn—red, white and blue."

"Supposin', in Circassia, you saw a girl walkin' in front of you in white trousers. If you was a single man the thing for you to do then would be to get ahead of her and, lookin' back, size her up. If you liked her looks, you might speak to her in a respectful way—ask her to take a sherbet, for instance. She wouldn't be offended. Why not? Because, wearin' white, she'd be a single girl. White trousers is only worn by the unmarried in Circassia."

"If you saw, glidin' along in red trousers, the most beautiful girl in the world, you'd have no right to speak to her, no matter how much her loveliness might attract you. Red trousers is a sign the girl is married. Red—danger—hands off."

"Blue trousers, again, is all right. If your Circassian girl has blue trousers on, step up to her as free as you please; tell her she is lookin' well, and ask her if she won't take supper with you. She'll not be offended if you are respectful and polite. Her blue trousers shows she is a widow."

"Circassia, Cad, is the place for a single man to go that is fond of the ladies. He can't make no mistakes there, whereas here, jiminy!"

ALLIGATORS IN VENEZUELA.

There Are Thousands of Them There, But as Yet They Are of No Practical Use.

The United States consul at Maracaibo, Venezuela, in a recent report to the state department comments interestingly on the great number of alligators in that country. He viewed these hideous amphibians through a business eye and wrote:

"Though but few alligator skins are sent abroad from here, it is not on account of scarcity of alligators. It is strange that nobody has taken up the hinting of these reptiles. They are here in the lakes and lagoons and rivers in untold numbers and all sizes. The skins are well worth securing and alligator oil brings a high price, being used for medical purposes. In the Rio de Oro and the Rio Tarra I have seen thousands of large alligators which came up to deposit their eggs on the sand banks during the dry season. It is the same in all the hundreds of streams which flow into the lake of Maracaibo. Alligator hunting is fine sport, and in my opinion would be a paying business."

Oil on Troubled Land.

Oil is not only poured on the troubled waters but also on agitated terra firma. Some 3,000 miles of the roadways of California are now treated with oil for the purpose of laying dust. The results are said to be most promising, partly because of the peculiar climatic conditions in southern California. The climate is so dry that the difficulty has always been to prevent the road surface from loosening, since there is not sufficient moisture to bind the road materials. The oil used has an asphalt base and differs in this regard from the crude oil available elsewhere.

Joys of Matrimony.

Fred (after a long absence)—So you and Agnes are now married and happy, eh?

Joe—Yes; er—that is, I am married and she is happy.—Chicago Daily News.

Fame.

Half Nelson—Why so blue, old chap?

Solfr Plexus—This jiu jitsu has completely knocked my name out of the papers.—N. Y. Sun.

Are You Looking Ahead?

To the man looking ahead the Southwest has an urgent invitation. The opportunity is today when investment chances are good and homes can be purchased at from one-tenth to one-half the prices asked in the North and East.

To the Homeseeker.

Through the M. K. & T. Land Bureau, thousands of acres of rich farm lands (improved and unimproved), located along the line of the Missouri, Kansas & Texas R. R. in Missouri, Kansas, Indian Territory, Oklahoma and Texas, are now offered for sale. The lands are especially adapted to the growth of corn, wheat, oats, fruits, vegetables, rice, cotton, sugar cane and for stock raising. The lands are well located as to markets, schools, etc.

To the Investor.

All over the Southwest, cities and towns are growing up, expanding, requiring more, demanding more, people by eager, rushing, wide-awake citizens, who see the virtue of encouraging enterprise of every kind, the needfulness of getting more and better facilities, and more hands to develop the country. The oil and gas fields of Kansas, Indian Territory and Oklahoma are practically new and offer wonderful opportunities for development along commercial lines.

BRIEFLY THE CONDITION IS THIS: The Southwest is really in need of nothing save people. More men are wanted. In the Southwest are vast areas of unimproved land—not yielding the crops of which it is capable. The same thing in a different way is true of the towns. Few lines of business are adequately represented. There are openings of all sorts—for mills and manufacturing plants, for small stores of all kinds, for banks, newspapers and lumber yards. Mechanics and professional men, both are in demand.

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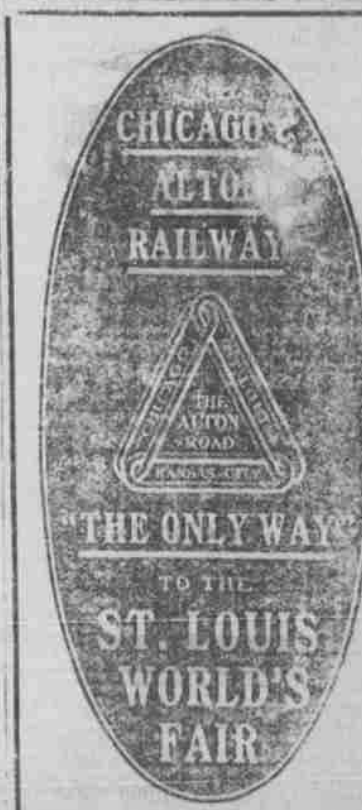
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